

[New](#) [FAQ](#) [Ask](#) [Intl](#) [Chat](#) [Donate](#)[Other Languages ▾](#)

Silent prayer - is it biblical?

Question: "Silent prayer - is it biblical?"

Answer: The Bible gives an example of silent prayer in [Hannah's](#) inaudible petition ([1 Samuel 1:10](#), [13](#)), but it does not give specific instructions on praying silently. That does not mean that silent prayer is any less valid than praying out loud—Hannah's prayer was answered, after all. God can hear our thoughts just as easily as He can hear our words ([Psalm 139:23](#); [Jeremiah 12:3](#)). Jesus knew the evil thoughts of the Pharisees ([Matthew 12:24-26](#); [Luke 11:17](#)). Nothing we do, say, or think is hidden from God, who does not need to hear our words to know our thoughts. He has access to all [prayers](#) directed to Him, whether or not they are spoken.

The Bible mentions praying in private ([Matthew 6:6](#)). What is the difference between praying aloud or silently if you are by yourself? There are some circumstances where only silent prayer is appropriate, e.g., praying for something that needs to stay between you and God only, praying for someone who is present, etc. There is not anything wrong with praying silently, as long as you are not doing it because you are embarrassed to be heard praying.

Perhaps the best verse to indicate the validity of unspoken prayers is [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#): “Pray without ceasing.” To [pray](#)

unceasingly obviously cannot mean we are praying out loud all of the time. Rather, it means we are to be in a constant state of God-consciousness, where we take every thought captive to Him ([2 Corinthians 10:5](#)) and bring every situation, plan, fear, or concern before His throne. Unceasing prayer will include prayers that are spoken, whispered, shouted, sung, and silent as we direct our thoughts of praise, petition, supplication, and thanksgiving to God.

Recommended Resource: [The Prayer That Turns the World Upside Down: The Lord's Prayer as a Manifesto for Revolution by R. Albert Mohler Jr.](#)

[More insights from your Bible study - Get Started with Logos Bible Software for Free!](#)

Related Topics:

[How can I have my prayers answered by God?](#)

[If Jesus condemned the Pharisees for praying out loud, should we pray aloud?](#)

[Is public prayer biblical? Is it okay to pray in public?](#)

[What is the value of a prayer meeting?](#)

[What is a prayer closet?](#)

Return to:

[Questions about Prayer](#)

Return to:

[GotQuestions.org Home](#)

Silent prayer - is it biblical?

Find Out How to...



Spend Eternity with God

[Learn More](#)



Receive Forgiveness from God

[Learn More](#)

Navigation

[Statement of Faith](#)

[The Gospel](#)

[Crucial Questions](#)

[Top 20](#)

[Random Article](#)

[International](#)

[Ask a Question](#)

Question of the Week

What does the Bible say about unforgiveness?

Preferred Bible Version:

ESV



Save

Search

Search

Subscribe to our Question of the Week

Get our Questions of the Week delivered right to your inbox!

Email Address

Subscribe

[Statement of Faith](#)[The Gospel](#)[Crucial Questions](#)[About Us](#)[Random Page](#)[Citation](#)[Audio / MP3](#)[Video](#)[Top 20 Questions](#)[Top 20 Articles](#)[Ask a Question](#)[Survey](#)[Contact Us](#)[Serve With Us](#)[Promote Us](#)[Donate](#)

© Copyright 2002-2019 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved. View our [Site Map](#). [Privacy Policy](#)